

Message Text

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TAGS: UK, PINT

SUBJECT: A NATIONAL ANTHEM FOR SCOTLAND

1. RECENTLY PROFESSOR ALAN THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN, BBC FOR SCOTLAND SUGGESTED THAT A NATIONAL ANTHEM BE FOUND FOR SCOTLAND INASMUCH AS OFTEN SOME SCOTS ATTENDING FOOTBALL GAMES DIDN'T SEEM TO CARE MUCH FOR THE GOD SAVE THE QUEEN. IN THE FUROR WHICH FOLLOWED IN WESTMINSTER, PROFESSOR THOMPSON QUICKLY WITHDREW HIS SUGGESTION.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH SIR MICHAEL SWAN IN EDINBURGH JULY 23 SIR MICHAEL SEEMED MORE AMUSED THAN TROUBLED WITH THE REACTION WHICH FOLLOWED PROFESSOR THOMPSON'S SUGGESTION. HE ATTRIBUTED IT TO THE FACT THAT THE PROFESSOR WAS NEW TO THE BBC AND DESIRED TO MAKE BBC SCOTLAND MORE INDEPENDENT. PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF THE FUROR, SIR MICHAEL RELATED, AT THE PREVIOUS DAY'S MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, THERE WAS LESS ANTI-DEVOLUTION TALKS THAN USUAL. SIR MICHAEL JOKED THAT WHILE SNP WINIFRED EWING WAS WRITING LETTERS COMPLAINING OF BIAS IN POLITICAL BROADCASTING, SNP MARGO MACDONALD WAS ON THE BBC SINGING "SCOTS WHAT HAE" AND DOING A PRETTY GOOD JOB OF IT."

3. COMMENT: THIS HAS BEEN MONEY IN THE BANK FOR THE SNP AND A LOT BETTER THAN ANY PAID ADVERTISING IF THE NUMBER OF LETTERS

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TO THE EDITORS IS ANY GUAGE. SUCH ACTIONS CONTINUE TO NOURISH

AND BRING INTO SCOTTISH VIEW THE CONCEPT OF A SEPARATE SCOTLAND.
WHILE THE BBC MAY HAVE OPTED OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR A SCOTTISH
NATIONAL ANTHEM IT COULD, IN THE FUTURE, BE CONSIDERED THE
GODFATHER OF ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION.
DOBBS

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